8. (Cancel) In a processing vessel wherein the process is time sensitive and the fluid flowing through the vessel for processing may be of varying flow rate, density and viscosity a means for establishing a plug flow of said fluid by the placement of one or more permeable barrier inside of said processing vessel in the flow path of said fluid, said barrier constructed in a manner that will permit the permeability to be adjusted discretely within different areas of the same said barrier to compensate for variations in the flow rate, density and viscosity of the fluid being processed in different areas of said processing vessel.
9. (Cancel) The means of claim 1 where the fluid being processed is oil and water and the permeability of same said barrier is varied independently in each of the areas of the processing vessel through which said oil and water flow.
10. (Cancel) The means of claim 1 where same said barrier is of a rotatable louvered shutter construction whereby said rotation can be independently regulated in various areas of same said barrier within the processing vessel.
11. (Cancel) The means of claim 10 including additional means on the exterior of the processing vessel connected to said rotatable louvered shutters for independently rotating said shutters to vary the permeability of same said barrier in different areas inside of said processing vessel.

Claims Continued.

12. (NEW) In a processing vessel having two or more discrete spaces inside of said vessel, wherein a flowing stream of a composite fluid is to be processed for the purpose of separating said composite fluid stream into two are more disparate streams, each of which will flow through its dedicated and discrete space, and the separation process is time sensitive, and said disparate streams, upon separation, may vary, one from the other(s), in regard to flow rate, density and viscosity, a method for establishing a continuous mass plug flow of each of said disparate streams as they flow through said vessel, by the placement of at least one permeable barrier inside of said vessel traversing the flow path of said composite fluid stream, said barrier constructed in a manner to permit its permeability to be regulated, independently, in each of said dedicated and discrete spaces through which said disparate streams flow.

13. (NEW) The method of claim 12, and said composite fluid being processed is composed of a oil component and a water component with the purpose of the process being separation of said water component from said oil component, and where the permeability of said barrier can be varied independently in said discrete spaces within said vessel dedicated to the flow of each of the separated water component and oil component.

14. (NEW) The method of claim 12, and said barrier is constructed in the form of a shutter having a multiplicity of flat surfaced, horizontal, rotatable, louvers that can be rotated individually from a positioning of the flat surface of said louvers being perpendicular to the flow direction of said composite fluid to a positioning of said flat surface being parallel to said flow direction, thereby increasing and/or decreasing the said permeability of said barrier independently in each of said dedicated and discrete spaces through which said disparate streams flow.

15. (NEW) The method of claim 14 including means, exterior to said vessel, penetrating the wall of said vessel and connected internally to said louvers to permit their rotation by external force.

16. (NEW) The method of claim14 including having the edges of said rotatable louver's flat surface overlap to some extent when said louvers are rotated to the positioning of said flat surface being perpendicular to said flow direction.